Talent pool of scientists and technicians

4594. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a talent pool of scientists and technicians; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Senior Research Associateship Scheme previously called Scientist Pool Scheme is being implemented since 1958 to provide temporary placement to bright highly qualified Indian Scientists/Engineers/Doctors including those returning from abroad. The scheme allows the recipients to continue to do research in the field of their choice while looking for a regular employment.

PA System at coastal villages

4595. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Public Address System established by the M.S. Swami Nathan Research Foundation at coastal villages of Pondicherry saved thousands of human life from the Tsunami waves; "and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware that the public address system established by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) at coastal villages of Pondicherry saved thousands of human lives from the Tsunami waves. However, as per the information received from MSSRF, the foundation has set up Rural Knowledge Centres (RKCs) in 12 villages in Pondicherry. These RKCs are connected through a hybrid wired and wireless network and provide information on agriculture, health, weather, employment, education, government entitlements and micro enterprises training etc. 4 out of the 12 RKCs are in coastal villages, where most of the families are involved in fishing. The MSSRF broadcasts information through a